

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 598
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor Representative John T. Bragg for his extraordinary service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Representative John Bragg is known throughout this state and nation as a fiscal expert whose guidance and leadership are reflected in this state's AAA bond rating and public pension plan which is ranked first in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bragg was instrumental in establishing the institutional process which has resulted in Tennessee's reputation as one of the best managed states in the country with the creation of the Council on Pensions and Insurance, the Fiscal Review Committee and the Subcommittee on Revenues and Expenditures, affectionately known as "the Black Hole"; and

WHEREAS, the financial wizardry of Mr. Bragg has not overshadowed his concern for the welfare of the citizens and children of this state which inspired his sponsorship of the Child Restraint Law; the Chairs of Excellence Program, which has over eighty endowed chairs of excellence at institutions of higher learning; the Sunshine law; the State Employee Suggestion Award Program; the Vocational-Technical Education Program; and others too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bragg has also contributed to the growth and emergence of Middle Tennessee State University as one of the premiere educational institutions in Tennessee with

his assistance in obtaining funding for a livestock center, a mass communications building, a business and aerospace department building and a new library; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bragg has been a tireless advocate of the state legislature as an institution and has served in every position of leadership of the National Conference of State Legislatures, serving as the only Tennessean to chair the conference. He was instrumental in establishing the Foundation of State Legislatures as well as holding leadership positions in the Southern Legislative Conference and the Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, in the thirty years Representative Bragg has served in the General Assembly, he has served with distinction on numerous standing committees, now chairs the Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and contributes his wisdom and expertise to the Oversight Committees on Education, the State Capitol, State Publications, and Information Systems; as well as the Fiscal Review Committee and Committee on Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, the title of Deputy Speaker has been bestowed on Representative Bragg for his outstanding contributions to the smooth operation of the House of Representatives and his ability to work with all members of the House to accomplish the goals of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bragg's service to the state was an extension of the love and devotion he has for his family, wife Susan, sons Tommy and David and their families, and stepchildren Betty Teoman, Annalee Gay, David Gay and their families. This love and devotion fueled the desire to make the state the best it could be for his family and the families of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career and life, John Bragg has treated every person he has met with dignity, respect and courtesy while maintaining a sense of humor and a historian's perspective on the issues which confront the General Assembly in its work; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this body to commend John Bragg for the honor with which he has served as an advocate of the people for thirty years as a member of this body and for enriching the lives of the members and staff of the general assembly and the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the greatest legacy a person can leave is a protégé who exceeds his own accomplishments, and if this is so, Mr. Jim Cummings has indeed again contributed to the citizens of this state and would be proud of John Bragg's life and service to his state and country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That in recognition and appreciation of his legislative acumen and fiscal expertise, this General Assembly hereby bestows upon Representative John Bragg the title of "Chairman Emeritus" of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we honor and thank John Bragg for his distinguished service in this body and for the difference he has made in the lives of the citizens of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate plaque be permanently affixed to the desk of Representative Bragg commemorating his service in this body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Bragg with this final clause deleted from such copy.

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